Message Text

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TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS

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INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, AFSP

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION OF SECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PIT APPOINTEES

FOR LIAISON OFFICES

1. IN RESPONSE TO NUMEROUS INQUIRIES FROM POSTS CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF NONSENSITIVE DESIGNATIONS FOR PIT POSITIONS BEYOND THOSE CURRENTLY AUTHORIZED FOR CONSULAR/VISA SECTIONS, THIS ADVISORY IS FURNISHED TO CLARIFY WHAT APPEARS TO BE A WIDELY MISUNDERSTOOD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SITUATION. 3 FAM 161.1C HAS ESTABLISHED ALL POSITIONS

IN THE DEPARTMENT AND FOREIGN SERVICE AS SENSITIVE, EXCEPT FOR THOSE SPECIFICALLY DESIGNATED AS NON-SENSITIVE BY THE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT. 3 FAM 161.4B PROVIDES THAT NO SENSITIVE POSITION CAN BE FILLED BY THE DEPARTMENT PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF A SECURITY CLEARANCE BASED ON THE RESULTS OF A FULL FIELD BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION. FURTHER, WITH RESPECTTO RESIDENT APPOINTMENTS, AUTHORIZATION AND APPOINTMENT MUST AWAIT THE COMPLETION OF A FULL FIELD BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION, AS SET FORTH IN 3 FAM 122.5-1B.

- 2. ALLOWANCE FOR EMERGENCY APPOINTMENTS IS PROVIDED BY 3 FAM 161.4B AND IS IMPLEMENTED, IN THE CASES OF ELIGIBLE DEPENDENTS, UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF 3 FAM 122.5-6. THIS EMERGENCY AUTHORITY, HOWEVER, MAY BE APPLIED ONLY TO FILL VACANCIES IN REGULAR, RPT REGULAR, POSITIONS AND ITS USE IN THE FILLING OF SUMMER POSITIONS IS SPECIFICALLY DENIED. PIT POSITIONS, NOT BEING REGULAR SLOTS, DO NOT MEET THE CRITERIA FOR POSITIONS WHICH MAY BE FILLED UNDER THE EMERGENCY APPOINTING AUTHORITY.
- 3. DURING THE PAST TWO PEAK WORKLOAD SEASONS, APPROVAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT AND A/SY FOR POSTS TO DESIGNATE SOME PIT POSITIONS IN CONSULAR/VISA SECTIONS AS NONSENSITIVE. THIS WAS IN RESPONSE TO POSTS STATED NEEDS, FSL EMPLOYEES NOT BEING AVAILABLE TO FILL VACANCIES ON A SHORT-TERM BASIS. APPROVAL FOR NONSENSITIVE PIT APPOINTMENTS WAS GRANTED TO ENABLE POSTS TO HAVE QUICK ACCESS TO ELIGIBLE DEPENDENTS FOR USE DURING PEAK CONSULAR WORKLOAD SEASONS, WITH SY PROCESSING BEING CONDUCTED ON A POST-APPOINTMENT BASIS. NO OTHER RELAXATION OF EXISTING SECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENT APPOINTEES (INCLUDING PIT APPOINTEES) HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT.
- 4. APPROVAL FOR THE DESIGNATION OF POSITIONS AS NON-SENSITIVE IS NOT VESTED UNILATERALLY IN A/SY BUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTUALLY IS IN THE PURVIEW OF THE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT. ACCORDINGLY, REQUESTS MADE BY POSTS TO A/SY FOR APPROVAL OF NONSENSITIVE DESIGNATIONS IN OTHER THAN CONSULAR/VISA SLOTS CANNOT BE ACTED ON WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL BY THE M AREA. THE PROPER AVENUE FOR POSTS WHICH FEEL THEIR NEEDS JUSTIFY THE DESIGNATION OF ADDITIONAL PIT POSITIONS AS NONSENSITIVE IS THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE REGIONAL BUREAU

TO THE M AREA. THE FUNCTION OF A/SY IN THESE MATTERS IS TO DETERMINE AND ADVISE IF THE INDIVIDUAL WORKING ARRANGEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE OF SOUND ACCESS CONTROLS WARRANT A NONSENSITIVE DESIGNATION, BASED ON A PHYSICAL SECURITY SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE RESPONSIBLE RSO OR PSO.

5. IN PRINCIPLE, A/SY INTERPOSES NO OBJECTION TO UTILIZATION OF DEPENDENTS IN NON-SUBSTANTIVE, NONSENSITIVE TASKS OUTSIDE THE CHANCERY, E.G., GARAGE HELP, GROUNDS MAINTENANCE, FURNITURE MOVING IN EMBASSY HOUSING, ETC. SUCH JOBS, IF FILLED BY DEPENDENTS AND PAID FROM PETTY CASH OR NON-APPROPRIATED FUNDS, WOULD NOT APPEAR TO REQUIRE ACTION BEYOND SURVEY BY

RSO OR PSO TO AFFIRM NONSENSITIVE NATURE OF JOB. ALL OTHER RESIDENT APPOINTMENTS, INCLUDING PIT APPOINTMENTS, FALL UNDER CRITERIA IMPOSED BY 3 FAM 161.4B AND 3 FAM 122.5-1B, EXCEPT FOR THOSE CONSULAR/VISA PIT POSITIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY EXEMPTED. INGERSOLL

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To: ALL POSTS

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